Combi®

Designed by Parents, for Parents

Keep this instruction manual for future use.
Store instruction manual inside pocket
on back of car seat.

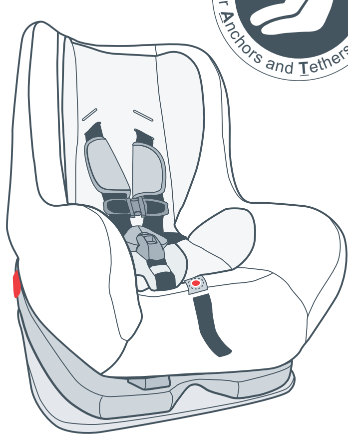
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10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time • Monday - Friday

Combi® **Instruction Manual**

Avatar™ Convertible Car Seat

LATCH — Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren



Avatar™ 8100 Series

⚠ WARNING ⚠

Correct installation and use can be a matter of Life or Death! Read and understand these instructions before using this car seat.

- Certified for use in motor vehicles and aircraft.
- Meets or exceeds all applicable requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213.

Para instrucciones en Español, llamar al: 1-800-992-6624.

Section 1 - Table of Contents

Keep this instruction manual for future use.
Store instruction manual inside pocket
on back of car seat.

Section 2 - Warnings

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- Failure to follow these instructions and car seat labels can result in injury or death to a child from striking the vehicle's interior during a sudden stop or crash.
- Use only in a rear-facing position when using this car seat with an infant less than one year old and weighing less than 20 pounds (9 kg).
- Use only with children who weigh between 5 and 40 pounds (2.3 and 18 kg) and whose height is between 19 and 40 inches (48 and 102 cm).
- Discontinue use when child's weight exceeds 40 pounds (18 kg) or shoulders are above the top shoulder belt slots.
- Snugly adjust harness provided with the car seat around child.
- For proper harness fit, infant insert MUST be used with small infants.
- Secure this child restraint with the vehicle's LATCH System if available or with a vehicle seat belt as shown in this manual.
- LATCH System or vehicle seat belt MUST stay tightly adjusted around car seat at all times.
- Secure the top anchor strap provided with this child restraint as specified in this instruction manual.
- Securely belt this car seat in vehicle, even when not occupied. An unsecured car seat can injure other occupants in a crash.

- Never leave child unattended, even when sleeping.
- Strangulation Hazard: Child can strangle in loose harness straps. Never leave child in car seat when straps are loose or undone.
- DO NOT use accessories or parts other than those provided by COMBI International Corporation. Use of accessories or parts from other manufacturers could alter the performance of the car seat.
- DO NOT use car seat if it has been in a crash, it must be replaced. A crash can cause unseen damage and using it again could result in serious injury or death.
- DO NOT use car seat if it is damaged, missing instructions, or missing parts.
- Register your child restraint with the manufacturer.

Proper Use Is Required:

No car seat can guarantee protection from injury in every situation, but proper use helps reduce the risk of serious injury or death.

Section 3 - Proper Use Check List

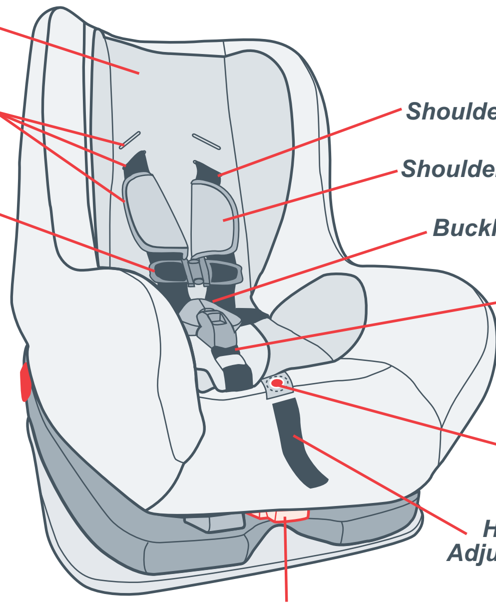
- Proper use is required. Read and understand instructions and car seat labels.
- Securely install car seat with LATCH System or vehicle seat belt and top tether strap.
- Snugly adjust harness around child.
- Infants less than one year old and 20 lbs. (9 kg) must use car seat rear-facing.
- Do not use car seat rear-facing in vehicle front seating location with an air bag.
- Secure children in back seat whenever possible.
- Never leave child unattended.
- Do not allow anyone (babysitter, relatives, etc.) to use car seat without first understanding all instructions.

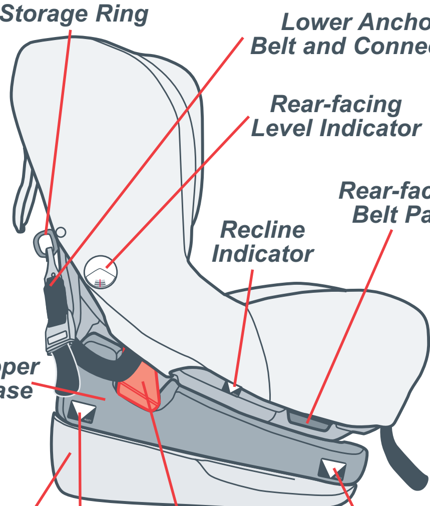
Need help installing your infant car seat?

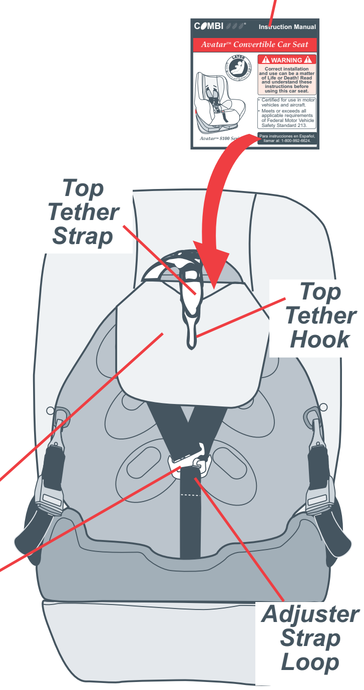
Contact one of the following sources to locate a child safety seat inspection station in your area:

- Your vehicle dealer.
- Call 1-866-SEAT CHECK (1-866-732-8243).
- Visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov and select “Child Seat Inspections”.
- Visit www.seatcheck.org.
- Contact a certified child passenger safety technician in your area. To locate a certified “Child Passenger Safety” Technician in your area visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov and select “Child Passenger Safety” and then select “Technician Contact Locator”.

Section 4 - Avatar™ Car Seat Parts







Section 5 - Use Recommendations

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **Children less than one year old and 20 lbs. (9 kg) must use this car seat rear-facing. Serious crippling injury or death can result if infant faces front of vehicle.**

Height and Weight Limits:

This child restraint is designed for use only by children whose:

- Weight is between 5 and 40 pounds (2.3 and 18 kg) and,
- Height is between 19 and 40 inches (48 and 102 cm).

Infants With Special Needs

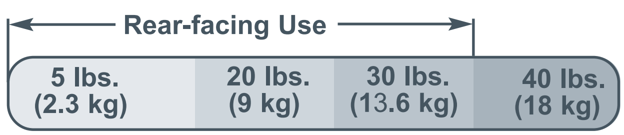
A preterm infant or low birth weight infant may be at special risk traveling reclined in a vehicle or aircraft. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, these infants may be at increased risk of suffering breathing or other difficulties if improperly reclined or positioned in a car seat.

Have your physician or hospital staff evaluate your infant in this car seat before you and your infant leave the hospital. If your infant is not able to travel in a reclined position, DO NOT use this car seat. Use a car bed for your infant.

Rear-facing Use: 5 to 30 lbs. (2.3 to 13.6 kg)

- Infants less than one year old and 20 lbs. (9 kg) MUST be *rear-facing*.
- Infants or toddlers 20 to 30 lbs. (9 to 13.6 kg) may be *rear-facing*.

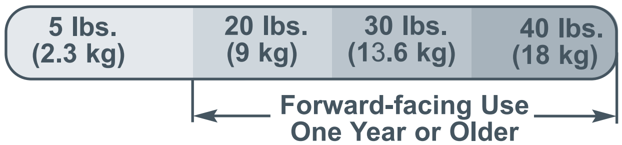
The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends keeping children over 1 year of age rear-facing as long as possible.



IMPORTANT: This car seat is certified for use *rear-facing* with children up to 30 lbs. (13.6 kg). However, some children approaching 30 lbs. (13.6 kg) may be too tall to fit comfortably *rear-facing*. When child can no longer comfortably fit and knees remain bent, child can use car seat forward-facing only if child is over one year old and 20 lbs. (9 kg) and can sit upright unassisted.

Forward-facing Use: 20 to 40 lbs. (9 to 18 kg)

- Toddlers 20 to 30 lbs. (9 to 13.6 kg), over one year of age, and who are capable of sitting upright unassisted may be forward-facing. If unable to sit unassisted, use rear-facing.
- Toddlers 30 to 40 lbs. (13.6 to 18 kg) and up to 40 inches (102 cm) tall MUST be forward-facing.



WARNING

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **To avoid injuries from whiplash, top of child's ears must be below top edge of car seat.**
- **Child's shoulders MUST not be above top harness slots.**

Section 6 - Selecting A Vehicle Seating Location

WARNING

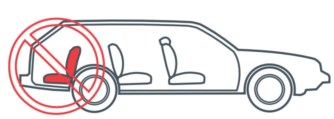
DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **DO NOT use this child restraint rear-facing in a vehicle front seating location with an air bag. Child's head and neck may be seriously injured when an inflating air bag hits back of child restraint.**
- **Never put a car seat in a vehicle front seating location unless recommended by vehicle owner's manual.**

1. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) alerts vehicle owners that according to accident statistics, children up to age 12 are safer when properly restrained in the rear seating positions rather than the front seating positions.

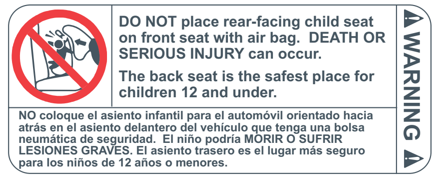
2. DO NOT use car seat on vehicle seats which face the side (***fig. a)*** or face the rear (***fig. b)*** of the vehicle.


(fig. a)


(fig. b)

3 Refer to vehicle owner's manual for car seat installation instructions for your vehicle.

- Use car seat in a rear vehicle seat location whenever possible.
- Never put a car seat in a front seat location unless recommended by vehicle owner's manual.
- DO NOT use rear-facing on front seat with an air bag.
- For vehicles with air bags, refer to vehicle owner's manual for child restraint installation information.



- For a toddler over one year old and forward-facing, if a vehicle front seat location with an air bag must be used, follow the vehicle manufacturer's instructions for child restraint use and move the vehicle seat back as far as possible.

Options For Securing A Car Seat:

This car seat can be secured to a vehicle using a vehicle seat belt or the new LATCH System.

1. LATCH System:

   LATCH stands for **L**ower **A**nchors and **T**ethers for **CH**ildren.

   Starting with model year 2003 vehicles are equipped with LATCH Systems. See "LATCH System" section for more information. Check vehicle owner's manual to determine if your vehicle has the LATCH System that may be identified with the symbol in ***fig. c***.

   (fig. c)

   Some vehicle owner's manuals may identify the LATCH System as "ISOFIX". An ISOFIX System can be used in the same way as the LATCH System.

   If your vehicle has the LATCH System, the LATCH System should be used whenever possible.

2. Vehicle Seat Belt and Top Tether Strap:

   If your vehicle does not have LATCH System, the car seat MUST be secured to the vehicle using a vehicle seat belt and top tether strap.

   Check vehicle owner's manual for seating locations recommended for car seat use and location of top tether anchorage.

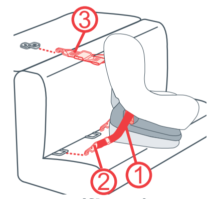
Top Tether Information:

If a top tether anchor is not available in your vehicle, the car seat **MUST** be secured with only the vehicle seat belt until a top tether anchor can be installed.

Section 7 - LATCH System

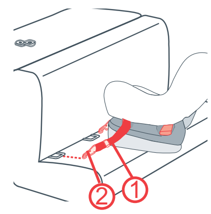
LATCH System On This Car Seat:

The LATCH System on the Avatar Car Seat consists of a lower anchor belt ① with lower anchor connectors ② and for forward-facing use, a top tether strap with tether hook ③ ***(fig. a)***.



(fig. a)

Rear-facing car seat installation typically uses only the lower anchor belt ① with lower anchor connectors ② ***(fig. b)***, no top tether.



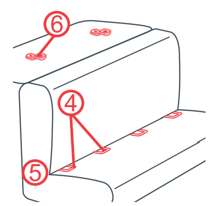
(fig. b)

Securing Car Seat To Vehicle:

The lower anchor connectors ② and top tether hook ③ on the car seat connect to the LATCH System in a vehicle.

LATCH System In Vehicles:

Child restraint anchorage system or LATCH System in the vehicle consists of two lower anchors ④ located at the vehicle seat bight ⑤ and a top tether anchor ⑥ ***(fig. c)***. Refer to vehicle owner's manual for seating locations which have the LATCH System.



(fig. c)

Lower anchors are visible in some vehicles and others are not. Those that are not visible are identified by a solid color round dot on the vehicle upholstery or a round dot with a picture of a car seat in the center as shown in ***fig. d***.



(fig. d)

The vehicle manufacturer may provide funnel guides to separate the vehicle seat cushions providing easier access to the lower anchorage. See vehicle owner's manual.

Section 8 - Rear-facing Installation

Rear-facing For Use 5 to 30 Pounds (2.3 to 13.6 kg)

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **DO NOT use this car seat rear-facing in a vehicle front seating location with an air bag.**
- **LATCH or vehicle seat belt MUST be routed though rear-facing belt path when using car seat rear-facing.**
- **Rear-facing car seat must be properly reclined:**
  - **Too reclined can result in injury or ejection.**
  - **Too upright can result in breathing difficulties.**

Section 8a - Rear-facing Installation With LATCH

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

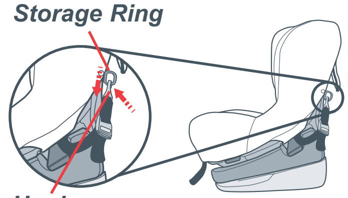
- **LATCH belt MUST stay tightly adjusted around car seat at all times.**
- **Only use the car seat LATCH System in vehicle seating locations designated by the vehicle manufacturer for use with LATCH and have an anchor spacing of 11 inches (280 mm).**
- **LATCH connectors must be secured to the vehicle LATCH anchors only. Connection to other vehicle anchors or vehicle components could result in the anchor tearing free in a crash.**
- **Never attach more than one lower anchor connector to a vehicle lower anchor unless recommended by the vehicle owner's manual for that vehicle.**

1 Refer to vehicle owner's manual to identify the seating locations with LATCH System. Select the seating location to be used and locate the vehicle lower anchors at the seat bight.

LATCH Anchorages with 11 inch (280 mm) spacing may not be available in your vehicle in the rear center seating position. If use of the rear center position is preferred, use the vehicle seat belt to secure the car seat. See "Rear-facing Installation With Vehicle Seat Belt" section.

2 After selecting a seating location, if adjustable, adjust vehicle seat back into most upright position.

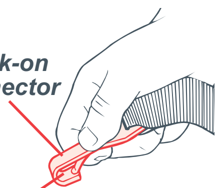
3 Rotate car seat on lower base to rear-facing position, see “Changing Forward-Facing/Rear-Facing Use Position” section.



(fig. a)

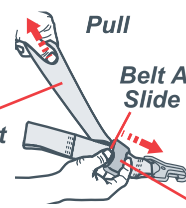
4 Remove the lower anchor connectors from their storage locations on back of car seat pad ***(fig. a)***.

- Depress spring on hook-on connector ***(fig. b)*** and remove from LATCH connector storage ring.



(fig. b)

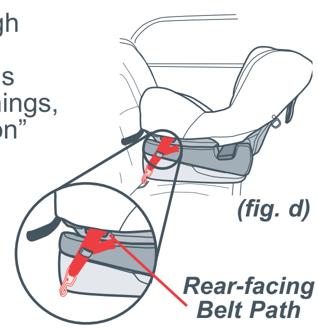
5 Lengthen lower anchor belt by pressing down on belt adjuster slide button on top of belt adjuster and pulling belt to extend the length of lower anchor belt ***(fig. c)***.



(fig. c)

6 Check that the lower anchor belt is through the belt path openings marked “Belt Here Rear-facing” ***(fig. d)***. If lower anchor belt is not through the rear-facing belt path openings, see “LATCH - Changing Belt Path Location” section.

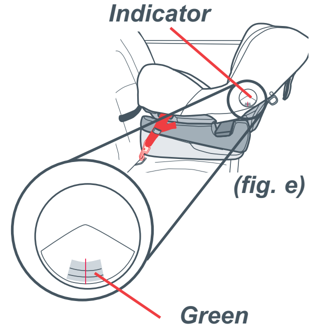
7 Place car seat rear-facing in the vehicle seat location selected with rear-facing belt path toward vehicle seat back and centered between the vehicle lower anchors ***(fig. d)***.



(fig. d)

8 Recline car seat keeping the line inside level indicator in the green striped zone ***(fig. e)***. To change recline position, see “Recline Position Adjustment” section.

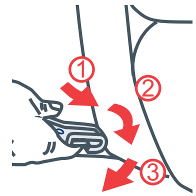
NOTE: Level indicator is located on the opposite side of car seat and not on the side shown.



(fig. e)

9 Connect low anchor connectors to vehicle lower anchors.

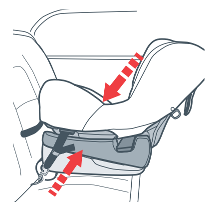
- Position the lower anchor belt with the belt adjuster slide button facing away from the car seat. If the adjuster is not in that position, turn the belt and adjuster over. Check that lower anchor belt is flat, not twisted.
- With hook-on connector opening facing down ①, position the opening of the connector over the vehicle lower anchor. Push down ② and then pull out ③ on the connector to lock it onto the vehicle anchor ***(fig. f)***. You should hear a click.
- Pull on connector to be sure it is locked onto the anchor.
- Repeat for connector on opposite side.



(fig. f)

10 Tighten lower anchor belt to secure the car seat.

- Press down in center of car seat to depress the vehicle cushion and pull free end of lower anchor belt to tighten belt ***(fig. g)***.

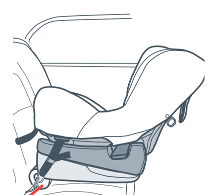

(fig. g)

11 Check recline of car seat. Line inside level indicator MUST be in green striped zone ***(fig. e)***. If line is not in green striped zone, adjust recline position or place tightly rolled up towel, blanket or firm foam (pool noodle) under end of car seat contacting vehicle seat back ***(fig. h)***.

If car seat can not be adjusted to locate the line in the green striped zone:

1. Try a different seating position.
2. Do not use this car seat.

NOTE: Vehicle must be parked on horizontal surface and child in car seat when checking angle of car seat.



(fig. h)

12 Check for secure installation. Gripping car seat at top of armrest, pull car seat front to back and left to right to check for secure installation ***(fig. i)***. LATCH belt MUST stay tight.

- If LATCH belt does not stay tight or car seat can not be securely installed, try a different LATCH location or use the vehicle's seat belt to secure the car seat.


(fig. i)

13 Recheck recline of car seat. Adjust if necessary (see step 11).

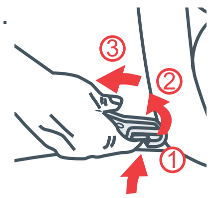
Removal Of Car Seat Installed With LATCH:

1 Loosen lower anchor belt by depressing belt adjuster slide button and pulling out lower anchor belt.

- Pressing down in center of car seat to reduce tension on lower anchor belt will make it easier to loosen lower anchor belt.

2 Remove hook-on connectors from vehicle anchors.

- Press and hold the connector retainer spring ①.
- Push connector in, then rotate connector ②, and pull out ③ to unhook from the vehicle anchor ***(fig. j)***. If the connector can't be rotated, push in and lift the connector to unhook from the vehicle anchor.
- Repeat to remove hook-on connector on opposite side.

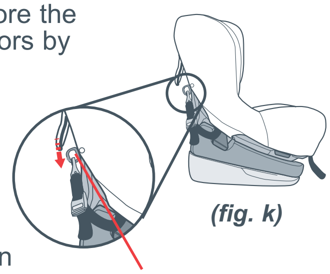


(fig. j)

Storage Of Lower Anchor Belt And Connectors:

When not using the LATCH System, store the lower anchor belt and hook-on connectors by snapping the connectors onto LATCH connector storage rings located on the back side of the seat pad ***(fig. k)***. Pull on free end of lower anchor belt to tighten.

NOTE: To prevent damage to the seat pad, care should be taken when removing or securing connectors. Excessive force could damage or tear seat pad.



(fig. k)

LATCH Connector Storage Ring

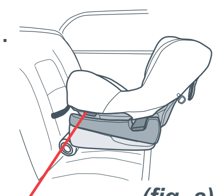
Section 8b - Rear-facing Installation With Vehicle Seat Belt

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **Not all vehicle seat belts can be used with this car seat. Read vehicle owner's manual and "Vehicle Seat Belts" section in this manual.**
- **Vehicle seat belt MUST stay tightly adjusted around car seat at all times. If vehicle seat belt does not stay tight, read the vehicle owner's manual and "Vehicle Seat Belts" section in this manual.**

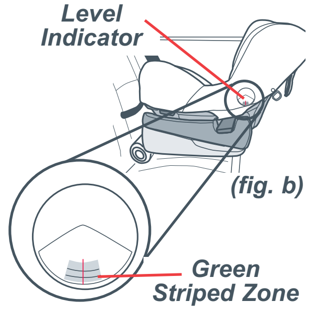
1. Refer to vehicle owner's manual to identify the seating locations which can be used with a car seat. Check for specific instructions for car seat use.
2. After selecting a seating location, if adjustable, adjust vehicle seat back into most upright position.
3. Rotate car seat on lower base to rear-facing position, see "Changing Forward-Facing/ Rear-Facing Use Position" section.
4. Place car seat rear-facing in the vehicle seat location with rear-facing belt path openings toward vehicle seat back ***(fig. a)***.



(fig. a)

5. Recline car seat keeping the line inside level indicator in the green striped zone ***(fig. b)***. To change recline position, see "Recline Position Adjustment" section.

   NOTE: Level indicator is located on the opposite side of car seat and not on the side shown.

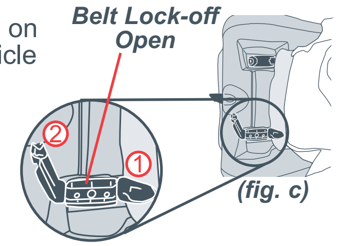


(fig. b)

6. Lift pad off of foot end of car seat to expose rear-facing belt path and belt lock-off ***(fig. c)***.
7. Open blue belt lock-off ***(fig. c)*** that is on the same side of car seat as the vehicle buckle that will be used to secure the vehicle belt.

   To open:

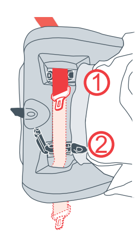
   - Lift locking tab ①.
   - Lift lock-off cover ②.



(fig. c)

8. Thread vehicle lap belt or vehicle lap and shoulder belts through belt path and belt lock-off ***(fig. d)***:

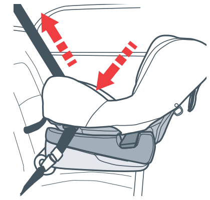
   - Thread vehicle seat belt through rear-facing belt path openings ① and place vehicle seat belt across belt lock-off ②.
   - Buckle seat belt and remove any slack in the vehicle seat belt. Be sure vehicle seat belt is not twisted.



(fig. d)

9 Tighten vehicle seat belt to secure the car seat.

- Press down in center of car seat to depress the vehicle cushion while tightening vehicle seat belt ***(fig. e)***.

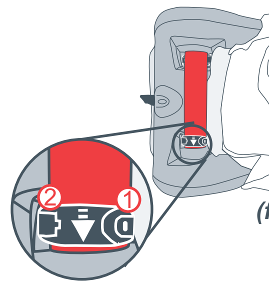


(fig. e)

10 Close belt lock-off over lap or lap and shoulder belt ***(fig. f)***.

To close:

- Push down lock-off cover ②.
- Then push down locking tab ①.



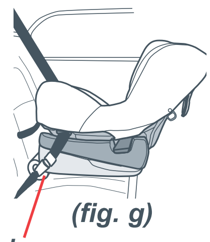
(fig. f)

11 Check recline of car seat. Line inside level indicator MUST be in green striped zone ***(fig. b)***. If line is not in green striped zone, adjust recline position or place tightly rolled up towel, blanket or firm foam (pool noodle) under end of car seat contacting vehicle seat back ***(fig. g)***.

If car seat can not be adjusted to locate the line in the green striped zone:

1. Try a different seating position.
2. Do not use this car seat.

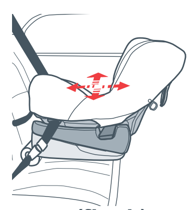
NOTE: Vehicle must be parked on horizontal surface and child in car seat when checking angle of car seat.



(fig. g)

12 Check for secure installation. Gripping car seat at top of armrest, pull car seat front to back and left to right to check for secure installation ***(fig. h)***. Vehicle lap belt MUST stay tight.

- If the vehicle lap belt does not stay tight or car seat can not be securely installed, see vehicle owner's manual, "Vehicle Seat Belts" section or move to a different seating location.



(fig. h)

13 Recheck recline of car seat. Adjust if necessary (see step 11).

Removal Of Car Seat Installed With Vehicle Seat Belt:

1 Unbuckle vehicle seat belt.

- Pressing down in center of car seat to reduce tension on vehicle seat belt will make it easier to loosen vehicle seat belt.

2 Open belt lock-off and remove vehicle seat belt from belt path.

Section 9 - Forward-facing Installation

Forward-facing For Use 20 to 40 Pounds (9 to 18 kg)

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **Children less than one year old and 20 lbs. (9 kg) must use this car seat rear-facing. Serious crippling injury or death can result if infant faces front of vehicle.**
- **LATCH or vehicle seat belt MUST be routed though forward-facing belt path when using car seat forward-facing.**

Section 9a - Forward-facing Installation With LATCH

⚠ WARNING ⚠

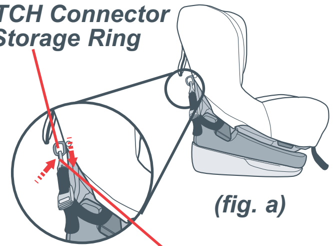
DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **LATCH belt MUST stay tightly adjusted around car seat at all times.**
- **Only use the car seat LATCH System in vehicle seating positions designated by the vehicle manufacturer for use with LATCH and have anchor spacing of 11 inches (280 mm).**
- **LATCH connectors must be secured to the vehicle LATCH anchors only. Connection to other vehicle anchors or vehicle components could result in the anchor tearing free in a crash.**
- **Never attach more than one lower anchor connector or top tether hook to a vehicle anchor unless recommended in the vehicle owner's manual.**

1 Refer to vehicle owner's manual to identify the seating locations with LATCH System. Select the seating location to be used and locate the vehicle lower anchors at the seat bight and top tether anchorage.

LATCH Anchorages with 11 inch (280 mm) spacing may not be available in your vehicle in the rear center seating position. If use of the rear center position is preferred, use the vehicle seat belt to secure the car seat. See "Forward-facing Installation With Vehicle Seat Belt" section.

2 After selecting a seating location, if adjustable, adjust vehicle seat back into most upright position.

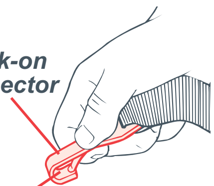


(fig. a)

3 Rotate car seat on lower base to forward-facing position, see "Changing Forward-Facing/Rear-Facing Use Position" section.

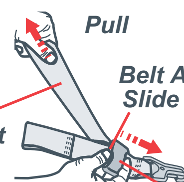
4 Remove the lower anchor connectors from their storage locations on back of car seat pad ***(fig. a)***.

- Depress spring on hook-on connector ***(fig. b)*** and remove from LATCH connector storage ring.



(fig. b)

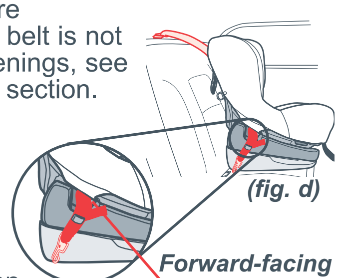
5 Lengthen lower anchor belt by pressing down on belt adjuster slide button on top of belt adjuster and pulling belt to extend the length of lower anchor belt ***(fig. c)***.



(fig. c)

6 Check that the lower anchor belt is through the belt path openings marked "Belt Here Forward-facing" ***(fig. d)***. If lower anchor belt is not through the forward-facing belt path openings, see "LATCH - Changing Belt Path Location" section.

7 Place car seat forward-facing in the vehicle seat location selected with forward-facing belt path toward vehicle seat back and centered between the vehicle lower anchors ***(fig. d)***.



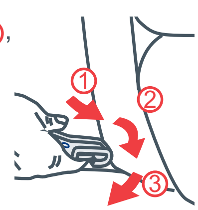
(fig. d)

8 Adjust car seat to desired recline position 1, 2 or 3.

- To change recline position, see "Recline Position Adjustment" section.

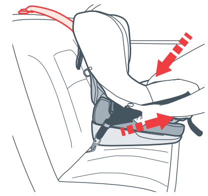
9 Connect lower anchor connectors to vehicle lower anchors.

- Position the lower anchor belt with the belt adjuster slide button facing away from the car seat. If the adjuster is not in that position, turn the belt and adjuster over. Check that lower anchor belt is flat,not twisted.
- With hook-on connector opening facing down ①, position the opening of the connector over the vehicle lower anchor. Push down ② and then pull out ③ on the connector to lock it onto the vehicle anchor ***(fig. e)***. You should hear a click.
- Pull on connector to be sure it is locked onto the anchor.
- Repeat for connector on opposite side.



(fig. e)

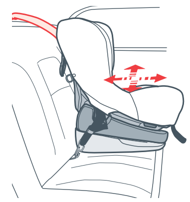
10 Tighten lower anchor belt to secure the car seat. Press down in center of car seat to depress the vehicle cushion and pull free end of lower anchor belt to tighten belt ***(fig. f)***.



(fig. f)

11 Check for secure installation. Gripping car seat at top of armrest, pull car seat front to back and left to right to check for secure installation ***(fig. g)***. LATCH belt MUST stay tight.

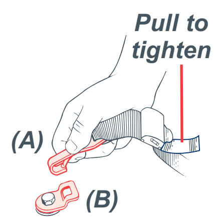
If LATCH belt does not stay tight or car seat can not be securely installed, try a different LATCH location or use the vehicle's seat belt to secure the car seat.



(fig. g)

12 Attach top tether hook *(A)* to vehicle top tether anchor hardware *(B)* ***(fig. h)*** and pull strap to tighten top tether removing any slack.

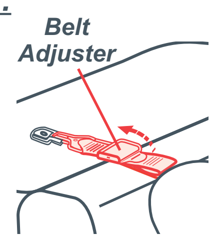
If top tether anchor ***(B)*** is not available in vehicle, see vehicle owner's manual or Top Tether Information in "Selecting A Vehicle Seating Location" section.



(fig. h)

Removal Of Car Seat Installed With LATCH:

1 Tip belt adjuster to loosen top tether strap ***(fig. i)***.

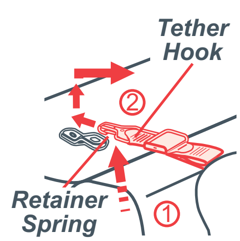


(fig. i)

2 Depress retainer spring ① and unhook ② tether hook from vehicle top tether anchor ***(fig. j)***.

3 Loosen lower anchor belt by depressing belt adjuster slide button and pulling out lower anchor belt.

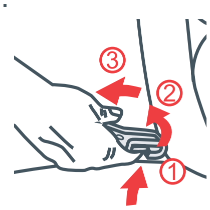
- Pressing down in center of car seat to reduce tension on lower anchor belt will make it easier to loosen lower anchor belt.



(fig. j)

4 Remove hook-on connectors.

- Press and hold the connector retainer spring ①.
- Push connector in, then rotate connector ②, and pull out ③ to unhook from the vehicle anchor ***(fig. k)***. If the connector can't be rotated, push in and lift the connector to unhook from the vehicle anchor.
- Repeat to remove hook-on connector on opposite side.

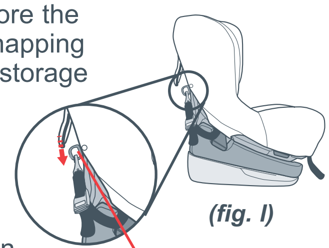


(fig. k)

Storage Of Lower Anchor Belt And Connectors:

When not using the LATCH System, store the lower anchor belt and connectors by snapping the connectors onto LATCH connector storage rings located on the back side of the seat pad ***(fig. l)***. Pull on free end of lower anchor belt to tighten.

NOTE: To prevent damage to the seat pad, care should be taken when removing or securing connectors. Excessive force could damage or tear seat pad.



(fig. l)

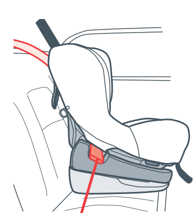
Section 9b - Forward-facing Installation With Vehicle Seat Belt

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **Not all vehicle seat belts can be used with this car seat. Read vehicle owner's manual and "Vehicle Seat Belts" section in this manual.**
- **Vehicle seat belt MUST stay tightly adjusted around car seat at all times. If vehicle seat belt does not stay tight, read the vehicle owner's manual and "Vehicle Seat Belts" section in this manual.**

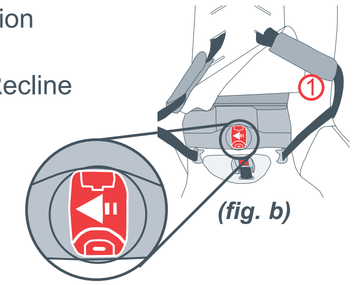
1. Refer to vehicle owner's manual to identify the seating locations which can be used with a car seat. Check for specific instructions for car seat use.
2. After selecting a seating location, if adjustable, adjust vehicle seat back into most upright position.
3. Rotate car seat on lower base to forward-facing position, see "Changing Forward-Facing/ Rear-Facing Use Position" section.
4. Place car seat forward-facing in the vehicle seat location selected with forward-facing belt path openings toward vehicle seat back ***(fig. a)***.



(fig. a)

5 Adjust car seat to desired recline position 1, 2 or 3.

- To change recline position, see “Recline Position Adjustment” section.



(fig. b)

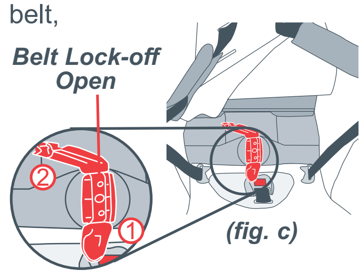
6 Lift front belt flap on pad and release belt access cover by lifting cover ① ***(fig. b)***.

7 Arrow on red belt lock-off ***(fig. b) MUST*** point toward the vehicle seat belt buckle that will be used to secure the vehicle belt. If the arrow is not pointing toward the vehicle buckle, rotate the belt lock-off until the arrow is pointing toward the buckle.

8 With arrow pointing toward the vehicle buckle that will be used to secure the vehicle belt, open red belt lock-off ***(fig. c)***.

To open:

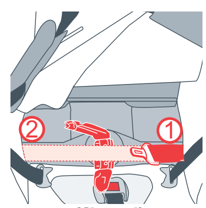
- Lift locking tab ①.
- Lift lock-off cover ②.



(fig. c)

9 Thread vehicle lap belt or vehicle lap and shoulder belts through forward-facing belt path ***(fig. d)***:

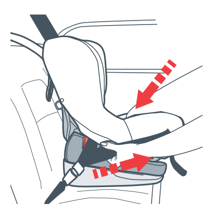
- Thread vehicle seat belt through forward-facing belt path openings ① and place vehicle seat belt across belt lock-off ②.
- Buckle seat belt and remove any slack in the vehicle seat belt. Be sure vehicle seat belt is not twisted.



(fig. d)

10 Tighten vehicle seat belt to secure the car seat.

- Press down in center of car seat to depress the vehicle cushion while tightening vehicle seat belt ***(fig. e)***.

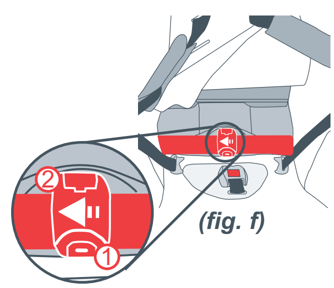


(fig. e)

11 Close belt lock-off over lap or lap and shoulder belt ***(fig. f)***.

To close:

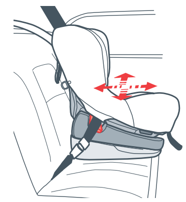
- Push down lock-off cover ②.
- Then push down locking tab ①.



(fig. f)

12 Check for secure installation. Gripping car seat at top of armrest, pull car seat front to back and left to right to check for secure installation ***(fig. g)***. Vehicle lap belt MUST stay tight.

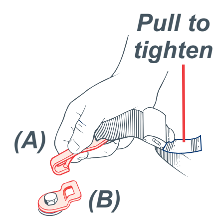
If the vehicle lap belt does not stay tight or car seat can not be securely installed, check that arrow on belt lock-off is pointing toward buckle, see vehicle owner's manual , "Vehicle Seat Belts" section or move to a different seating location.



(fig. g)

13 Attach top tether hook ***(A)*** to vehicle top tether anchor hardware ***(B) (fig. h)*** and pull strap to tighten top tether removing any slack.

If top tether anchor ***(B)*** is not available in vehicle, see vehicle owner's manual or Top Tether Information in "Selecting A vehicle Seating Location" section.

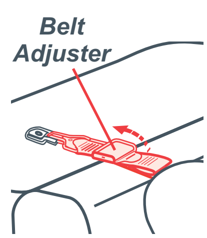


(fig. h)

Removal Of Car Seat Installed With Vehicle Seat Belt:

1 Tip belt adjuster to loosen top tether strap ***(fig. i)***.

2 Depress retainer spring ① and unhook ② tether hook from vehicle top tether anchor ***(fig. j)***.

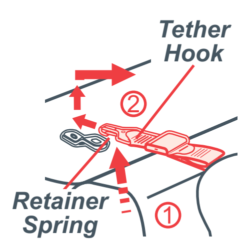


(fig. i)

3 Unbuckle vehicle seat belt.

- Pressing down in center of car seat to reduce tension on vehicle seat belt will make it easier to loosen vehicle seat belt.

4 Open belt lock-off and remove vehicle seat belt from belt path.



(fig. j)

Section 10 - Securing Child In Car Seat

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **Keep harness straps snug and positioned on shoulders and thighs.**
- **Use only the middle or lowest shoulder harness slots when used rear-facing.**
- **For proper harness fit, infant insert MUST be used with small infants.**
- **Discontinue use of the infant insert when:**
  - **Child's shoulders are above middle belt slots in seat back of car seat.**
  - **Shoulder belts become too short to fit infant (approximately 5 months of age).**
- **Child must be dressed in clothing with arms and legs that will not interfere with buckling and snugly adjusting harness.**
- **Do not use accessories or parts other than those provided by COMBI International Corporation. Use of accessories or parts from other manufacturers could alter the performance of the car seat.**
- **Never leave child unattended, even when sleeping.**
- **Strangulation Hazard: Child can strangle in loose harness straps. Never leave child in car seat when straps are loose or undone.**

1 Position harness to fit infant:

- Rear-facing - Shoulder harness straps must be through shoulder harness slots which are at or below shoulders.
  - Use only the middle or lowest shoulder harness slots when used rear-facing.
  - Crotch strap must be in position closest to but not under child.

  See "Operations and Adjustments" section to change position of harness and crotch strap.

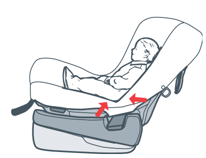
- Forward-facing - Shoulder harness straps must be at or above shoulders.
  - Crotch strap must be in front position.
  - Discontinue use of car seat if shoulders of child are above top shoulder harness slots.

  See "Operations and Adjustments" section to change position of harness and crotch strap.

2 Loosen harness:

- While pressing on harness adjustment lever, pull harness straps out.

3 Place infant in car seat with back and rump contacting seating surfaces ***(fig. a)***.



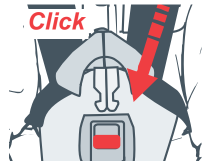
(fig. a)

4 Place harness straps over child's shoulders and thighs.

For information on harness operation and use, see "Harness Use and Adjustment" section.

5 Buckle Harness:

- Place top of buckle tongues together and insert buckle tongues into buckle ***(fig. b)***. You should hear a click.
- Pull up on tongues to be sure they are locked.

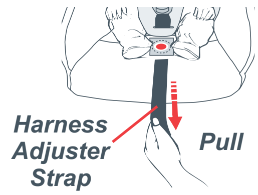


(fig. b)

6 Pull harness adjuster strap ***(fig. c)*** to snugly adjust harness straps.

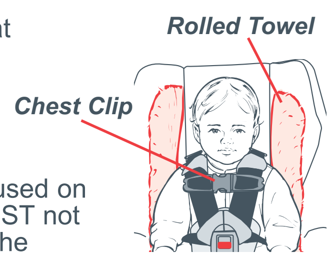
- Check that harness straps are snug on shoulder and thighs. Straps should not allow a finger to pass between the belt and the child's shoulder.
- A snug harness strap should not allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does not press on the child's flesh or push the child's body into an unnatural position.

NOTE: If harness can not be snugly adjusted as described above, do not use this car seat.



(fig. c)

7 Close chest clip and position chest clip at arm pit level ***(fig. d)***.



(fig. d)

Small infants:

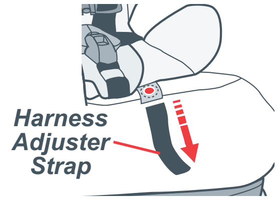
For a small infant, a rolled towel can be used on each side for support ***(fig. d)***. Towels MUST not interfere with the ability to snugly adjust the harness system. DO NOT place towel or other items behind infant or between infant and harness.

Section 11 - Operation and Adjustments

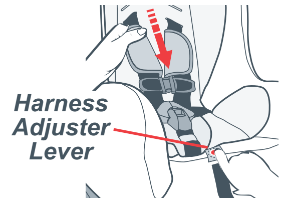
A. Harness Use and Adjustment

1 Harness Straps Adjustment:

- To tighten: Pull harness adjuster strap ***(fig. a)***.
- To loosen: While pressing harness adjuster lever, pull harness straps ***(fig. b)***.



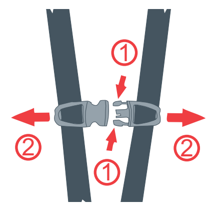
(fig. a)



(fig. b)

2 Chest Clip Operation:

- To open: Press tabs ① and pull apart ② ***(fig. c)***.
- To close: Snap halves together. Make sure chest clip is locked by pulling out.



(fig. c)

3 Buckle Operation:

- To buckle:
  - Place top of buckle tongues together and insert buckle tongues into buckle ***(fig. d)***.
  - Pull up on tongues to be sure they are locked.



(fig. d)

- To unbuckle:
  - Press red button and pull tongues out of buckle.

B. Changing Harness Positions:

Rear-facing - Shoulder harness straps *must* be through slots *at* or *just below* shoulders.

- Use only middle or lowest harness strap slots for rear-facing.

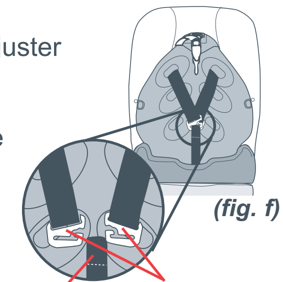
Forward-facing - Shoulder harness straps *must* be *at* or *above* shoulders.

- Discontinue use of car seat if top shoulder harness slots are below shoulders of child.

To change harness strap slots:

1. Buckle shoulder harness straps and chest clip.

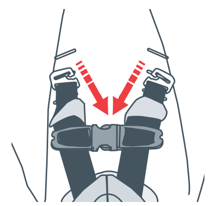
2. From front of car seat, loosen shoulder harness straps by pressing harness adjuster lever and pulling harness straps out to lengthen them.
   - Make sure both buckle tongues are buckled and chest clip is closed.



(fig. f)

3. From back of car seat, remove both metal harness strap clips from adjuster loop ***(fig. f)***.

4. From front of car seat, pull shoulder harness straps through car seat shell, seat pad and infant insert pad ***(fig. g)***.



(fig. g)

To Re-secure Shoulder Harness Straps:

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

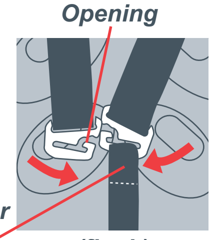
- **Shoulder harness straps MUST be through belt slots in infant insert.**
- **Do not use infant insert with top slots in car seat.**

1. From front of car seat, rethread shoulder harness straps through desired shoulder harness strap slots of infant insert, seat pad and seat back. Make sure shoulder harness straps are not twisted and are threaded through matching slot of seat pad and seat back.

   NOTE: Only use two lowest sets of shoulder harness slots with infant insert.

2. From back of car seat make sure shoulder straps are not twisted, pull shoulder harness straps down and re-attach harness strap metal clips to adjuster loop as shown in ***fig. h***.

   NOTE: Openings in both metal clips MUST be toward center of car seat.



(fig. h)

C. Changing Crotch Strap Position:

Rear-facing:

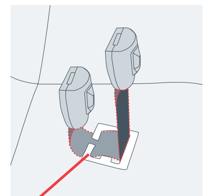
Crotch strap MUST be in position closest to but not under child for rear-facing position.

Forward-facing:

Front position MUST always be used for forward-facing position.

To Position Crotch Strap Closer To Child:

1. Remove seat pad from front of car seat.
2. For rear-facing use, if crotch strap is too far away from child, slide crotch strap under crotch strap anchor tabs ***(fig. i)***.
3. Replace seat pad over front of car seat.



(fig. i)

To Move Crotch Strap Away From Child:

1. Remove seat pad from front of car seat.
2. Slide crotch strap out from under crotch strap anchor tabs.
3. Replace seat pad over front of car seat.

D. Infant Insert:

WARNING

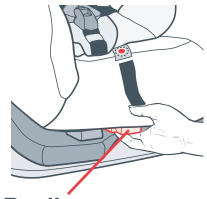
DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **To prevent ejection:**
  Shoulder belts MUST be through belt slots in infant insert.
  - **For proper harness fit, infant insert MUST be used for small infants.**
- **Discontinue use of infant insert when:**
  - **Child's shoulders are above middle belt slots in seat back of car seat.**
  - **Shoulder belts become too short to fit infant (approximately 5 months of age).**

E. Recline Position Adjustment:

To change recline position:

- Lift and hold recline lever under front of car seat ***(fig. e).***
- Push on front or back of car seat to slide into desired recline position.
- Release recline lever and check that car seat is locked in the recline position.



Recline Lever

(fig. e)

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

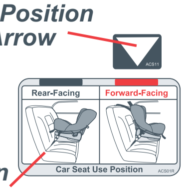
- **Rear-facing car seat must be properly leveled:**
  - **Too reclined can result in injury or ejection.**
  - **Too upright can result in breathing difficulties.**

F. Changing Forward-Facing/Rear-Facing Use Position:

Car seat use position is indicated by use position arrows and use position labels on car seat ***(fig. c)***.

- Blue for rear-facing.
- Red for forward-facing.

Use Position Arrow



Use Position Label

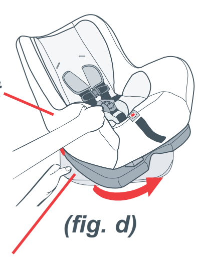
(fig. c)

To change use position:

1. Grasp lower front corner of lower base and side of car seat ***(fig. d)***.

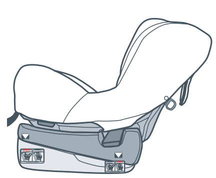
2. Turn car seat and upper base until use position arrows are in line with use position label section for forward-facing or rear-facing position ***(fig. d)***.

Car Seat



(fig. d)

Front Corner Lower Base



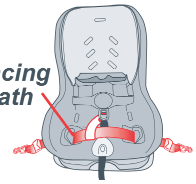
Rear-facing



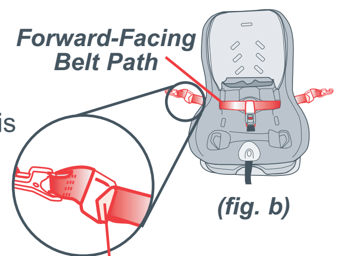
Forward-facing

G. *LATCH - Changing Belt Path Location:*

- LATCH lower anchor belt ***MUST*** be routed through the correct belt path for use.
- Identify correct belt path for rear-facing or forward-facing based on age or weight of child.
- To change lower anchor belt location,
  - Remove seat pad.
  - From inside seat, pull lower anchor belt and connectors into the seating area.
  - Insert connector into correct belt path openings and pull out.
- Check that belt adjuster slide button is facing away from and seat and that lower anchor belt is not twisted.
- Replace seat pad.



(fig. a)



(fig. b)

Section 12 - Vehicle Seat Belts

Design and operation of vehicle seat belt systems vary from vehicle to vehicle and from seating location to seating location in the same vehicle. Not all vehicle seat belts can be used with a child restraint. Refer to the information in this section for information on the various types of vehicle seat belt systems.

⚠ WARNING ⚠

DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur

- **Not all vehicle seat belts can be used with a car seat. The car seat must be held tightly at all times by a lap belt (or lap belt portion of a lap/shoulder belt) that will not loosen while driving.**

To provide a secure installation of the car seat:

- Read the vehicle owner's manual regarding securing a car seat and vehicle seat belt use with car seat.
- Follow all instruction labels on vehicle seat belt and car seat.

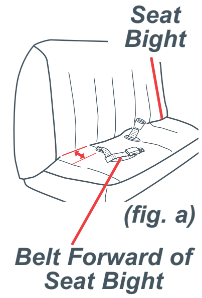
If car seat does not stay tightly secured after following instructions in this manual, vehicle seat belt labels, and vehicle owner's manual:

- Move car seat to another seating location and try again, or
- Contact vehicle dealer for assistance and possible seat belt modification parts.
- Obtain assistance, see "Need Help Installing Your Car Seat" in "Proper Use Checklist" section.

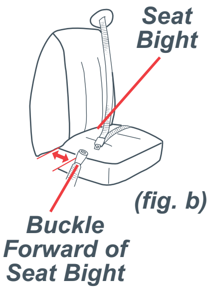
Belts Forward of Seat Bight

Vehicle seat belts located forward of seat bight ***(fig. a & b)*** may not securely hold car seat. Check vehicle owner's manual or see vehicle dealer for car seat installation requirements.

- *If seating position is approved for use with car seat, install car seat and check for secure installation by pulling car seat front to back. If car seat slides forward or vehicle seat belt does not stay tight, DO NOT use these seat belts.*



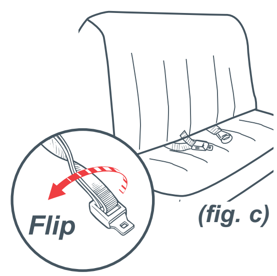
(fig. a)



(fig. b)

Lap Belts - Manually Adjustable

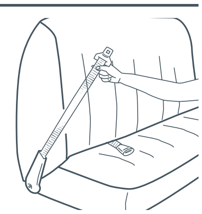
Manually adjustable lap belts ***(fig. c)*** normally will hold a car seat tightly. However, in some cases, the locking latch plate on some seat belts may slip and loosen if positioned at a certain angle. If this happens, flip latch plate over ***(fig. c)*** and re-buckle. Test installation again to see if lap belt stays tight. If not, move car seat to another seating location.



(fig. c)

Lap Belts - With Retractor

Lap belts with retractors ***(fig. d)*** may or may not hold a car seat securely.


(fig. d)

Follow these steps to determine if you have a retractor system that will hold car seat securely:

a. Pull belt all the way out.
b. Allow belt to retract about 6 inches (15 cm).
c. Pull out on belt again.

If belt is locked and you cannot pull the belt out any further, you have an Automatic Locking Retractor which may be used with a car seat. Remember, when installing a car seat, pull belt all the way out, buckle belt, and then tighten.

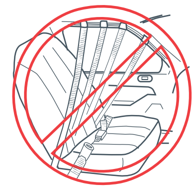
If the belt pulls out (step c), the retractor is an Emergency Locking Retractor which must not be used with a car seat.

Passive Restraints

Lap Belt with Motorized Shoulder Belt *(fig. e)*

DO NOT use with any car seat.

See your vehicle dealer for options for securing a child restraint in this location.

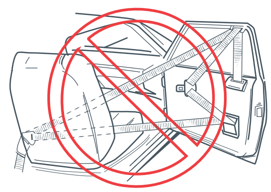


(fig. e)

Lap or Shoulder Belt Mounted on Front Door *(fig. f)*

DO NOT use with any car seat.
Belts will not stay tight while driving.

See your vehicle dealer for options for securing a child restraint in this location.

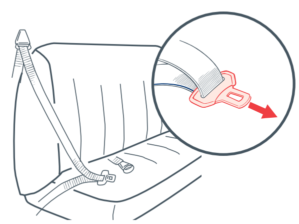


(fig. f)

Combination Lap/Shoulder Belt with Free Sliding Latch Plate

Pull out on latch plate. If belt slides freely through latch plate ***(fig. g)***, the belt lock-off MUST be used (see Belt Lock-off section).

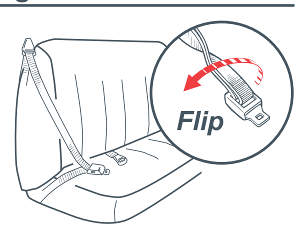
Some combination lap/shoulder belts with free sliding latch plates may be converted into an “automatic locking mode”. Always use the belt lock-off with these belt systems.



(fig. g)

Combination Lap/Shoulder Belt with Locking Latch Plate

Vehicle seat belts with locking latch plates ***(fig. h)*** normally hold a car seat tightly. However in some cases, the locking latch plate on some seat belts may slip and loosen after being buckled on car seat if positioned at a certain angle. If this happens, flip the latch plate over and re-buckle. Test installation again to see if this works. If not, move car seat to another seating location.



(fig. h)

Section 13 - Additional Information

Certification

This car seat meets or exceeds all applicable requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 for use in motor vehicles and aircraft.

Aircraft Use

This car seat is certified for use on aircraft (see label on car seat). Contact airline about their policy.

Use this car seat only on forward-facing aircraft seats.

Install car seat on aircraft the same way it is installed in a vehicle.

Warm Weather

Car seat parts can get very hot in the sun or warm weather.

To avoid burns, always check before putting child in car seat.

Vehicle Seat Protection

Protect vehicle seat. Use a thin car seat mat, thin towel or thin blanket under and behind car seat.

Car Seat Useful Life

DO NOT use after 7 years from date of manufacture on label.

Instruction Manual Storage

Store instruction manual inside pocket on back of car seat.

Section 14 - Care and Cleaning

Removing Harness Covers, Seat Pad and Infant Insert:

- Remove harness strap metal clips from the adjuster strap loop, see "Operations and Adjustments" section.
- Pull harness straps through slots in car seat shell and seat pad.
- Slide shoulder harness covers off end of shoulder belt over metal harness strap clips.
- Remove infant insert from car seat by lifting insert out of car seat pad.
- Slide seat pad from car seat by gently pulling it off the top of car seat back.

Reverse above steps for replacing seat pad and harness system.

Cleaning Seat Pad, Shoulder Harness Covers, and Infant Insert:

Machine wash in cool water and mild soap. Roll in towel to remove excess water and lay flat to dry.

Cleaning Harness Straps:

Surface wash only with mild soap and damp cloth.

Cleaning Shell:

Wipe with mild solution of soap and water. Avoid wetting labels.

Never use “household detergents”: they can weaken plastic.

Cleaning Buckle:

Rinse buckle with warm water. DO NOT use household detergents. Never lubricate buckle.

Section 15 - Registration Information

Child restraints (car seats) could be recalled for safety reasons. You must register this restraint to be reached in a recall. Fill out the registration card attached to car seat or send your name, address, and the restraint’s model number and manufacturing date to:

Combi USA
1962 Hwy 160 West, #100
Fort Mill, SC 29708

or call 1-800-992-6624

or fax 1-803-548-3663

or log onto www.combi-intl.com

For recall information:

- Call the U.S Government’s Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 (202-366-0123 in D.C. area)
- Log onto the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recall website at:
  http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/childseat.cfm
- Contact Combi USA (see contact information above)

Combi®

Avatar™ Convertible Car Seat
Model 8100

Be sure to carefully read this instruction manual **before** using the product to ensure proper use of the stroller and keep it for future reference. Record the following information for quick reference.

Combi USA, Inc.
Attn: Customer Service Department
1962 Highway 160 W, Suite 100
Fort Mill, SC 29708-8027

Fax this completed form to:
803-548-3663

IMPORTANT: **We must have this information to process your order:**

Model Number: 8100 - _____ Color & Pattern of Fabric: ______________________________

Parts List for the Avatar™ Convertible Car Seat (8100 Series) only.

	Price	Quantity	Total
1. Seat Cover	$ 25.00		
2. Canopy	15.00		
3. Shoulder Pad	3.00		
4. Crotch Belt Pad	5.00		
5. 5-Point Harness	15.00		
6. Chest Clip	5.00		
7. Infant Pillow	10.00		
8. Tether	20.00		
9. Latch	15.00		
10.			
	Amount of Order		
	ADD Shipping & Handling		
	Sales Tax (5%) (SC residents only)		
	Total		

Prices subject to change without notice.

If you need to order other parts for your stroller, please call us toll-free at 1-800-99-COMBI.

Shipping and Handling Fees: Add $5.00 for orders $34.99 and under. Add $10.00 for orders $35.00 and over. Note: Additional shipping charges will apply outside of the Continental U.S.

Ship To:

____
Customer Name

____
Street Address

____
Street Address

____
City, State, Zip

____
Telephone Number

Charge to my credit card:

- ☐ VISA
- ☐ MASTERCARD
- ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS
- ☐ DISCOVER

____
Card Number

Expiration Date ________ - _________ - __________

____
Cardholder's Signature

☐ **Check enclosed**

04/2004